

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service FY2006 – 3rd Quarter Report

Volunteer Promotion and Recognition

During the fourth annual "Volunteer Iowa!" program in January 2006, well over 1.5 million hours were pledged (valued at nearly \$28 million). This also marked the 4th straight increase in hours pledged to the broadcast. This one-hour live television broadcast is very similar to a typical telethon, but financial donations are not requested or accepted. Instead, viewers are encouraged to call and pledge the number of hours they will spend volunteering during the current calendar year.

On March 20, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service hosted a volunteer fair in the state capitol rotunda. More than 40 exhibitors provided information to the public about volunteer opportunities and visited with legislators about the contributions volunteers make in Iowa (valued at approximately \$840 million per year).

The ICVS received nominations for over 700 Governor's Volunteer Awards that will be presented this June to volunteers who spend their time assisting state or city government or one of Iowa's nonprofit organizations. Regional recognition ceremonies will be held in Des Moines, Storm Lake, Cedar Falls, Marion, and Ottumwa. This is the 27th Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards Program and the first time City governments have been eligible to nominate their outstanding volunteers through our partnership with the Iowa League of Cities.

An induction ceremony for the 2006 Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame will be held in conjunction with the Iowa Conference on Volunteer Service scheduled for October 31 and November 1 at the Polk County Convention Complex.

AmeriCorps/Senior Corps Training

A statewide training was held on January 20-21, 2006 for AmeriCorps*State and VISTA members and Senior Corps Directors. Training topics included Volunteer Recruitment and How to Engage Baby Boomers. This training provided an opportunity for national service participants to engage in skill building trainings to improve their service to communities in Iowa.

The 2nd Annual Iowa National Service Leadership Institute will be held on May 2-3, 2006 at the Greater Des Moines YMCA camp. This event attracts nearly 100 AmeriCorps members and program directors from across the state and engages them in various leadership workshops to enhance their personal and professional development. This event also serves as a recognition event for National Service participants across the state for their commitment to serving Iowa communities.

AmeriCorps Grants

This year, seventeen non-profit organizations, schools and/or government agencies applied to the Iowa Commission for AmeriCorps grant funding totaling \$3.8 million. In June, we expect to receive award notification for selected grants. Programs submitted applications for a variety of community needs, including serving youth through mentoring and after-school programs, providing services to domestic violence victims, building housing for low income Iowans, improving Iowa's environment and strengthening public safety.

During 2000-2005, organizations in Iowa have been awarded almost \$7 million in federal funds for AmeriCorps programs. These funds leveraged more than \$9 million in local resources. During this same period, Iowa's AmeriCorps members provided 1 million hours of service valued at more than \$17 million. In addition, members used approximately \$4.5 million in education awards at Iowa educational and lending institutions. Using these calculations, every dollar of the state appropriation to the Iowa Commission leveraged more than \$105 in local, federal and member service resources.